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G.O.P. Platform Panel Hears Call For a 10% Rise in Military Funds

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (UPI) — Republican military experts, accusing President Carter of presiding over a dangerous decline in United States strength, today called for a rebuilding of the nation's military and intelligence capabilities.

In testimony before the Republican Platform Committee, one witness cited the Eisenhower Administration as a "golden era" when military spending consumed twice the percentage of the gross national product as it does now. Another said that a 10 percent annual increase in military spending was needed to restore United States strength.

Dr. Richard Allen, onetime deputy assistant to President Nixon, called for a crash program to strengthen United States capability in foreign intelligence. He said that the "unilateral disarming of our intelligence agencies" had accelerated under Mr. Carter.

Illusions Laid to Carter

Fred Ikle, former director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said that because President Carter had illusions about Soviet intentions, "our enemies have expanded their positions throughout the world." He said that the Soviet Union would continue its buildup "at twice the rate" established by the Democratic Administration.

"During the Eisenhower era — that golden era — defense spending absorbed twice the percentage of our gross national product that it absorbs today," he said, "and yet the average annual inflation rate was about 1 percent."

John Lehman, former deputy director of the arms control agency, said that the Administration "has allowed the posture of our own military forces to decline as a result of its deep budget cuts from the Ford program."

Billions More He'd Needed

"The programs needed to begin to restore United States defense capabilities to meet security requirements of the 80's will necessitate an increase above inflation of at least 10 percent each year," he said, and at least \$15 billion more in the fiscal year 1981 than was appropriated for 1980.

Mr. Carter has agreed to increase military spending, but the Republicans called his proposals "totally inadequate."

"We cannot compensate for the failures of the past three years through a modest percentage increase in annual defense spending," Mr. Lehman said.

Mr. Ikle cautioned against judging Mr. Carter's foreign policy solely on the outcome of the crisis in Iran.

"Should our diplomats be released without physical harm," he said, "the world crisis that we are facing would in no way be mitigated. It is important that Republican criticism be focused on the broad strategic moves, the things the Administration has been doing or failed to do during the last three years. The fickle behavior of some terrorists should not result in the litmus test of our foreign policy."

The testimony came on the second day of the opening round of platform hearings by Republican officials.